

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

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R 131759Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1254

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07473

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON PORTUGUESE TALKS WITH PAIGC

REF: ALGIERS 1266

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY OFFICER ON JUNE 13, ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR LAKHDAR BRAHIMI SAID THAT PORTUGUESE TALKS WITH PAIGC LEADERS HAD BEEN SHIFTED FROM LONDON TO ALGIERS AT REQUEST OF PAIGC. ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN EARLIER LONDON TALKS, HE SAID HE HAD HAD LENGTHY CONVERSATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES AND OF COURSE WITH PAIGC DELEGATES. ATMOSPHERE AT TALKS WAS FRIENDLY, AMBASSADOR SAID, BUT THE BIG PROBLEM WAS THAT NEITHER SIDE HAD COME WITH DOSSIER ON MEANS FOR IMPLEMENTING GENERAL PRINCIPLES. BOTH SIDES WERE SURPRISED TO DISCOVER THAT THEY COULD NOT "LIQUIDATE AN EMPIRE IN A WEEKEND."

2. THERE WAS AGREEMENT AT LONDON TALKS TO SEPARATE QUESTION OF THE FUTURE OF THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS FROM THE FUTURE OF THE MAINLAND. WHILE THE PAIGC COULD NOT
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ACCEPT A REFERENDUM ON THE MAINLAND, THE AMBASSADOR

THOUGHT THEY COULD ON THE ISLANDS. QUESTION ON THE MAIN-
LAND WAS OF COURSE THE MODALITIES OF A PORTUGUESE WITH-
DRAWAL, PAIGC ASSUMPTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION, THE
STATUS OF AFRICAN TROOPS WHO HAD FOUGHT FOR THE PORTU-
GUESE, THE STATUS OF PORTUGUESE WHO WISH TO REMAIN IN
GUINEA BISSAU AND FUTURE FINANCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO THE AMBASSADOR, NEITHER
SIDE HAD THOUGHT OUT ANY OF THE DETAILS INVOLVED IN THESE
PROBLEMS BUT HAD HOPEFULLY DONE THEIR HOMEWORK DURING
THE RECESS AND WOULD BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE THEM DURING
THE CURRENT MEETING IN ALGIERS.

3. CONCERNING THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, THE AMBASSADOR
SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WAS URGING
PORTUGAL NOT TO LET THEM COME UNDER PAIGC CONTROL BE-
CAUSE THIS WOULD CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR SOUTH
AFRICA. EMBOFF REITERATED US POSITION ON TALKS STRESSING
THAT US GOVERNMENT HAD MADE NO SUCH APPROACH, DID NOT
WISH TO GET INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WISHES BOTH
SIDES SUCCESS IN COMING TO A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTION.

4. ANOTHER ITEM MENTIONED BY THE AMBASSADOR THAT AROSE
AT THE LONDON TALKS WAS A PAIGC OFFER OF RICE FROM THE
TERRITORY THEY CONTROL TO PORTUGUESE CONTROLLED AREAS
WHERE THERE IS REPORTEDLY A SHORTAGE OF RICE. THE AM-
BASSADOR SAID THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM THE
PORTUGUESE SIDE.

5. ON THE QUESTION OF TIME PRESSURE, THE AMBASSADOR
SAID THAT PORTUGUESE WERE UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO
COME TO AN AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE PAIGC
HOWEVER WAS NOT UNDER ANY TIME PRESSURE AND COULD CON-
TINUE DISCUSSIONS FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY. AMBASSADOR
SAID THAT HE HAD POINTED OUT TO THE PAIGC THAT IT IS
IMPORTANT FOR THE PRESENT PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT AND FOR
MOZAMBIQUE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
AMBASSADOR FELT THAT IT SHOULD TAKE ABOUT A WEEK OF
DISCUSSION IN ALGIERS TO TRANSFORM THE DE FACTO CEASE-
FIRE INTO A REAL CEASE-FIRE BUT THAT OTHER PROBLEMS
WOULD TAKE LONGER TO SOLVE.

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